GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:563
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2009
INDIA-BANGLADESH OFFICIAL LEVEL TALKS
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meetings of Home Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Director Generals of Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles are held at regular intervals; and

(b) if so, the details of such meetings held during the last three years and the current year alongwith the issues discussed and outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI)

(a)& (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 563 FOR ANSWER ON 24.02.2009

(a) & (b): While the meetings of Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh and Director Generals of Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) were held at regular intervals during the last three years, Joint Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh was held in May, 2008, after a gap of almost five years.

During the Joint Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh held in May, 2008 various issues relating to security,border management and enhanced cooperation between law enforcement agencies of both countries were discussed.Among other issues,there was a decision to activate the nodal points between the two countries for sharing of information on issues of mutual concern. The Bangladesh side reiterated that Govt. of Bangladesh will not allow her territory to be used by members of Indian Insurgent Groups for criminal and insurgent activities.

In the meeting of Director Generals of BSF and BDR held in August, 2008, BSF raised issues of the presence of Indian insurgent groups in Bangladesh and their training camps/hide outs; construction of border fence; and development works for border population within 150 yards of the International Border. Issues of enhanced co-operation between Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to check trans border crimes, illegal cross border movement and construction of border pillars were also discussed. During the last three years, 12 development works on the border have been settled and some wanted criminals have been handed over to either country. Director General BSF has also handed over a list of forty-six (46) patches, where border fencing within 150 yards of the border is required on a priority basis. Simultaneous coordinated patrolling by the BSF and BDR has been agreed upon to prevent trans border illegal activities and in this context, both sides have also agreed to identify vulnerable stretches along the border for such patrolling, and to finalize modalities in this regard at the sector/Battalion level.

In the Home Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh held in 29-31 August 2008, both sides agreed interalia that designated nodal points in the two countries would regularly and continuously exchange information and pursue focused action on identified areas regarding activities of militants, insurgents, terrorists, extremists, criminals and smugglers of arms, ammunitions, explosives and fake currency notes. It was also agreed that the nodal points would regularly exchange available information about militants/ insurgents/ terrorists/extremists groups, exchange information about criminals, exchange details of selected identified subjects about Red Corner Notices, dealers/conduits/ smugglers of fake currency notes, arms & ammunitions, etc.